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- 26 Apr 77

Asher BEN-NATAN  
(Phonetic: bennahTAHN)

ISRAEL

Political Adviser to  
the Defense Minister  
(since December 1975)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Ben-Natan

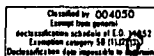


Following a varied career in diplomacy and defense, Asher Ben-Natan has become one of the most trusted advisers to Defense Minister and Labor Party (LP) head Shimon Peres. He is responsible for preparing summaries of political and intelligence material for the Minister and is a close personal friend of Peres as well. Ben-Natan is likely to have a high-level post should Peres form the next government; one observer has flatly predicted that he will be the next Ambassador to the United States. Although Ben-Natan's views on international issues are not well known, he has in the past been associated with the hardline RAFIG (Israel Workers' List) faction of the LP.

Born in Vienna, Ben-Natan emigrated to Palestine in 1939 and joined Haganah at the outbreak of World War II. From 1944 until 1947 he was deeply involved in efforts to facilitate emigration of Jews from Europe to Palestine; during that time he lived for long periods in Europe. He was also connected with the investigation and apprehension of Nazi war criminals, and he gathered evidence that later helped lead to the arrest of Adolf Eichmann.

In 1947 Ben-Natan returned to Israel from Europe, and when statehood was declared in 1948, he became responsible for information in the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry. During 1948-49 he served as the Political Department's representative in Europe. From 1951 until 1953 Ben-Natan attended the College of International Relations in Geneva. He was a member of the administrative council of Incode, an Israeli meat-packing company located in Eritrea, from 1953 to mid-1956.

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